

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Page 2, amend the paragraphs starting at line 1 and ending at line 16 as follows:

SPECIFICATION FIELD OF THE INVENTION

The present invention refers to a machine and a process for carrying out quick tests on textile materials for accessing their colour fastness and/or ability to be dyed.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

A process for dyeing textile materials is known to usually include a step of checking the ~~color~~ color fastness thereof. Such inspection should be performed before unloading the materials from the machines in which the dyeing is carried out, in order to subject the materials, in case of unfavourable outcome, to a washing or cleaning treatment. During this step, in fact, it may be economically more advantageous to reprocess the materials than unloading them and classifying or selling them as second-rate or defective products.

SUMMARY AND OBJECTS OF THE INVENTION

Page 3, amend the paragraph starting at line 11 and ending at line 16 as follows:

These and other advantages and characteristics of the invention will be best understood by anyone skilled in the art from a reading of the following description in conjunction with the attached drawings given as a practical exemplification of the invention, but not to be considered in a limitative sense, ~~wherein.~~

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Pages 5 and 6, amend the paragraphs starting on page 5 at line 9 and ending on page 6 at line 2 as follows:

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

Reduced to its basic structure, and reference being made to the figures of the attached drawings, a machine according to the invention comprises a stationary plate (1) and above this a movable plate (2) associated with a vertical actuator (3) to allow the movement thereof from and to the stationary plate (1), as indicated by the double arrow (F) in Fig. 1. The said plate (1) and actuator (3) are positioned in a fixed support structure which is not shown in the figures of the attached drawings for the sake of simplicity.

Both the lower (1) and upper (2) plates are able to be heated. Illustrate in Fig. + 2 are seats (10, 11) for corresponding electric resistances and temperature sensors which are connectable to a programmable source of electric power to heat both plates, that is, to bring them at predetermined temperatures over time intervals to be preset as well.

Page 7, amend the paragraphs starting at line 6 and ending at line 18 as follows:

In this way, the multifibre witness (4) ~~results~~ is formed by fibres of different materials - representing those most commonly used for the production of textiles - and orderly collected into strips ~~adjacent~~ adjacent to each other.

Through said ~~fores~~ holes (12) of the lower plate (1) it is possible to inject liquid substances of

different nature (such as water or organic solvents) by means of a relevant circuit (5). The latter comprises a plurality of liquid-holding vessels or tanks (50) individually connected to a pump (51) via respective conduits intercepted by valves (52) which allow selecting each time one of the tanks of liquids among those available.

Pages 9 and 10, amend the paragraph starting on page 9 at line 1 and ending on page 10 at line 10 as follows:

The multifibre witness (4) is positioned upon the stationary plate (1) so that each strip (40-45) thereof will result in correspondence of a hole (12). A sample ~~fo~~ of the material under test is positioned upon the multifibre witness, as illustrated in Figs. 3B and 4B, then a command is given for lowering the upper plate (2) and heating both plates at the preset temperature. In this way, the plate (2) is caused to press the sample under test and the multifibre witness upon the lower plate (1), the test being made under known conditions of temperature and pressure. The liquids withdrawn in preset amounts by means of the pump (51) and valves (52) from one or more vessels (50) are injected through the holes (12). After a preset time interval, during which the liquids introduced through the plate (1) reach the required temperature, the pump (61) is activated for sucking the liquids previously injected and discharging them into one of the vessels (60). Upon completion of this step, the plate (2) is lifted up to allow the visual inspection of the multifibre witness (4) and, when required, of the sample. This inspection makes it possible to check the fastness of the sample's colour, that is, to check whether, and to which extent, one or more strips of the multifibre witness (4) result dyed, or in other words, whether the sample's

colour results also on the fibres of one or more strips (40-45) under the test's temperature and pressure conditions. At the same time, it is possible to check whether the hue of the sample results altered. The liquids discharged into the vessels (60) can be subject to both visual and instrument-assisted examinations, such as the visual control of the colour and/or pH measurements.